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INSIDE:



NEWS

Dr. Jack Shaheen, author of "Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies A People," lectures in Olin



A&E

Xue Di gives a poetry reading in honor of Asian-Pacific-American month.



SPORTS

Men's tennis concentrates on wins, despite losing record.

Students Suspended, Campus Reacts

By SARAH GREEN

NEWS EDITOR

ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY

BEN MORSE, USMAN SHEIKH, MATT PRESTON AND TIM STEVENS

On Wednesday, April 3 a group of about 15 male freshmen, many of whom had spent the day celebrating a friend's 21st birthday, went to cheer on the Connecticut College Women's lacrosse team in

their game against Wesleyan.

"At first I was psyched to have the support," said Anna Hitchner, the team's captain. "It was nice to have people watching our game."

Unfortunately, an initially benign situation degenerated into a commotion as the male students began to shout at the opposing team. It was a scene that Catherine WoodBrooks, Dean of Student Life described as "above and beyond the 'rowdiness' usually expected at any

sporting event... Inappropriate, degrading, and misogynistic remarks were made directed towards members of both the Conn and Wesleyan teams."

Moving off the field as it began to rain, the group continued to shout from windows of Harkness overlooking the green. One of the male students threw a ball onto the field, interrupting play while two others were carded by the referees. Two of the students also returned to

the field and antagonized Wesleyan's goalie, prompting Conn. head coach Anne Crosby to ask them to leave. Following the reprimand, they returned to Harkness for a short time.

Later in the game, Debbie Lavigne, the assistant coach of the Conn team, asked the group to quiet down a second time. Though one student responded by swearing at her, the group did eventually leave. However, by the point the

students left the game voluntarily, things had already gone too far.

"The [Wesleyan] coaches were very upset about it," said Crosby. "They screamed at the refs about it. They screamed at me about it. At the end of the game, they apologized, and realized that I had no control over that. But, they were disappointed that the college did not have support there to get the

continued on page 8



Coast Guard Academy students put on a dance exhibition as part of Eclipse Weekend festivities (Sultan).

Annual Eclipse Weekend a Success

By NATALIE BOLCH

STAFF WRITER

A spring tradition at Connecticut College, the annual Eclipse Weekend, features many events in celebration of the diversity the campus has to offer.

Since its inception 27 years ago, Eclipse Weekend has drawn attention from all members of the Connecticut College community.

Accompanied by the Coast Guard Academy, Conn hosts this event once a year to honor the college's admitted minority students. These students, along with many alumni students of color, spent the weekend of April 12th though 15th becoming more culturally aware.

This year's weekend embodied the theme, "Unity in Diversity...Together we Stand." The hope of Unity House and

Connecticut College's other multicultural organizations was to present a culturally aware environment to prospective students while also educating them on the importance of diversity. In order to do so, the college provided for the potential students a fashion show in which clothing from a variety of different traditions was modeled.

continued on page 9

Dean WoodBrooks Leaves for Assumption

By SARAH GREEN

NEWS EDITOR

Catherine WoodBrooks, Dean of Student Life, will be leaving Connecticut College to become the Vice President of Student Life at Assumption College in Worcester Massachusetts.

WoodBrooks joined Connecticut College 11 years ago. "This is the longest I've ever been in any position," said WoodBrooks. "After a certain period of time, you know when it's time to move on." Come July, WoodBrooks and her husband Mark Brooks will have moved to Massachusetts to begin a new chapter of their life together.

WoodBrooks had been thinking of changing schools for about two years when a colleague called to inform her that the Assumption position was opening up.

"In life sometimes it's easy to stay comfortable, but I'm not comfortable when things become routine or when I heard myself saying 'Seven years ago we tried that and it didn't work'—you need a fresh vision," explained WoodBrooks. "I've known for a couple of years I'd be ready to move, but I'm not running from something. I'm going towards something I'm very excited about."

She began interviewing for the position in early February, having formally applied for it at the end of January. WoodBrooks had been offered positions elsewhere, but withdrew her applications for those positions because, she said, they were not a good fit. The feeling she got when visiting Assumption, however, was similar to the way she felt 11 years ago when considering Conn.

"I will miss Connecticut College," said WoodBrooks. "It's going to be a difficult series of good-byes."

Frances Hoffmann, Dean of the College, called WoodBrooks' departure "bittersweet."

"This is a wonderful opportunity for her," said Hoffman, who described WoodBrooks as "dedicated and engaged."



WoodBrooks, who has been with the college for 11 years, will leave Conn at the end of the school year.

The position at Assumption will be an adjunct position, just as WoodBrooks' current job is here. As Vice President of Student Life, WoodBrooks will have a broader scope of supervision and an opportunity to provide more leadership. Dean WoodBrooks looks forward to building bridges between academic and student affairs, but will miss working more directly with students. "I love what I do," said WoodBrooks. "Even during some of the most challenging times, I have always looked forward to coming to work. I intend to do it for the rest of my working life."

WoodBrooks received a phone call from Assumption's President on Friday, April 5 offering her the job. Before accepting, Dean WoodBrooks conferred with her husband and negotiated the terms of the contract, which she described as "very generous." She accepted the position over the weekend.

"I have a real loyalty to Connecticut College," said WoodBrooks. "It really hasn't hit me yet."

Dean Hoffmann is putting together an interview process and a search committee composed of two faculty members, four administrators, and two or three students. Students interested in participating must be able to conduct interviews over the summer, and should contact Dean Hoffmann. Application screening will begin May 10, and Hoffmann hopes to have filled the position by the end of the summer.

SGA Elections Delayed Due to Technical Problems

By USMAN SHEIKH

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Election Board of the Student Government Association announced last week that due to technical issues, results of the first online SGA Executive Board elections have become invalid. A re-vote took place this week.

"The Web Team experienced several major database problems and worked quickly to resolve them," read an email sent out by the CC Web Team. "The error that occurred caused the SGA Election results to become corrupted. Because of this error the Web Team has advised the Election Board to re-run this election."

"I don't think you can blame the error on anyone because it's a technical issue," said Aim Sinpeng, a candidate for SGA PR Director.

The Election Board called a meeting with all Exec Board candidates over the weekend to explain what went wrong. According to a number of candidates who were present at the meeting, the two problems were that the amount of data being stored crashed the server and that the addition of a write-in candidate reset everyone else's votes to zero.

However, Usman Khosa, chair of the Election Board, denied he ever made any such comments.

"I told them that the database expanded and that was the problem. Maybe they just reworded that into crashing the server. There was no server problem," explained Khosa.

Michael Friscia of Information Services, who developed the e-voting application, agrees. "The number of votes being stored is a tiny, tiny portion in comparison to the user data that is stored in the database," and could not have caused the problem, explained Friscia. Instead, he suggested that the causes of trouble were problems, experienced by

the database a few days before the election.

"There was a problem with the database that started last Sunday. What was happening was that the database was getting bombarded with lots of calls for transactions," said Friscia. "In the process of me trying to correct that problem, the SGA elections came up."

"The database had expanded and this is a common problem that happens with database servers sometimes," said Khosa. "They usually have backups and they replace it." When asked why this log was not used instead of a re-vote, he said, "We lost part of the log."

While all the election results were stored on the same server, results for Young Alumni Trustee and Senior Speaker were not affected.

"There were five different ballots that I could have run," Friscia explained. "It appears that if all five ballots were running, it still would have only affected the SGA [election] because that was the only one that was setup incorrectly."

"One of the big reasons what it really comes down to is the encryption process. What happens is when you place a vote, your vote gets stored into two different tables and one table increases the candidates vote count by one," Friscia continued. "The other tells the program that you voted and then uses the encryption format to tell me who you voted for... those encryption codes were unable to be inserted for the SGA elections. That really is the bottom line, where the problem came into it."

Friscia doesn't believe the loss of election results had anything to do with the addition of a write-in candidate, as explained by the Election Board at the meeting with the candidates. "That was my initial reaction," said Khosa. However, Friscia did

continued on page 8



Brian Sendrowski '04 uses a computer voting terminal in Cro to participate in the SGA elections, which restarted after initial technical difficulties (Schwartz).

Preparing for Our Very Own Woodstock: Floralia 2002

By ANDREA LODICO

STAFF WRITER

Get those lawnchairs and coolers ready kids; it is that time of year again. Conn's version of the outdoor music festival gets underway next weekend, one full week earlier than usual, pushed back because of President Fainstein's inauguration. The eclectic lineup for Floralia's mainstage promises to provide not only a lovely soundtrack to the day's drunken activities, but also an amazing concert experience. The five bands scheduled to perform on the mainstage range from a salsa band to a jam band, with the other three bands taking their influences from everything in between.

Saturday, April 27 will begin with the rousing sounds of salsa music, with the beats of Sabor Latino luring everyone out of bed to

the library green to start our day of peace, love, and music. After dancing the morning away to Sabor Latino, the day is scheduled to take a more mellow turn with The Itals, a reggae trio from Jamaica. Formed in 1976, The Itals have performed all over the world, and have toured extensively throughout Canada and the US. The Itals take their name from the patois word, "ital," which means pure and natural. Carefully constructed harmonies give these veteran performers their classic sound.

Next up is the ever-pleasing crowd favorite—the Guns n' Roses cover band, which now goes by the name Mr. Brownstone. Mr. Brownstone's setlist promises to make us revisit our childhoods, where big hair was stylish and Axl was the epitome of cool. Following

continued on page 9



Addison Groove Project will be the headlining band at Flralia next weekend.

EDITORIAL & OPINION

ECLIPSE WEEKEND SUCCESS A WELCOME RELIEF

Connecticut College has been an institution that takes seriously the issue of diversity for quite some time. Themes for the incoming Freshman classes usually concern this in some way or another. Speakers are brought in often to discuss to implications of diversity, remind us of its importance, or share stories of its application. One can even point out that Conn's involvement with New London, as misguided as it has been at times, was born of this desire to connect with as many people from as many different backgrounds as possible.

As a result of this intense interest in the topic, the implications of racism that have been raised in the wake of not renewing Athletic Director Ken McBryde's contract have set many on campus on edge.

Factor this feeling in with the arrival of Eclipse Weekend. Last year's Eclipse Weekend was dominated by a violent incident involving Conn students and minority individuals believed to be from the New London area. Despite the fact that they were not on campus for the college's events and the incident had nothing to do with the weekend, it cast a pall over the entire situation.

The success of the 2002 Eclipse Weekend comes both as a pleasant surprise given the circumstances that served as its backdrop, and a shot in the arm Conn desperately needed following the McBryde situation. It can not be denied that there is a visible portion of the campus community working towards ensuring that acceptance of diversity is more than just a brochure promise. Questions can be raised about the integrity of the past and present administrations in regard to issues of race, but they can not be applied to Conn universally.

Eclipse Weekend has also traditionally served as a showcase of what is good about Conn. With negative press swirling out of the past few years under Claire Gaudiani and the McBryde situation, not to mention the foreboding (if well-meaning) posters of an at-large racist that greet prospective students, it could not have come at a better time.

It is reassuring in times like these that Conn can still come together enough for to cause a prospective student, in this case Matt Koh, to comment that "seeing the efforts made by a school like Connecticut College to make not only minority students, but all students feel welcome and at home ended many of my worries." It is remarks like these that Conn can take pride in and should continue to pursue regardless of the distractions that may swirl about the campus.

Do you care about anything?

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send to: ccvoice@conncoll.edu

Correction: In the April 12, 2002 issue, a front page article entitled "Campus Pizza Reopens as Tiger's Den," incorrectly indicated that the Tiger's Den was a new incarnation of Campus Pizza, which has been closed since it and Campus Liquors were the victims of arson earlier this school year. The Tiger's Den is in no one way connected to Campus Pizza or Campus Liquors. *The Voice* regrets any confusion this may have caused.

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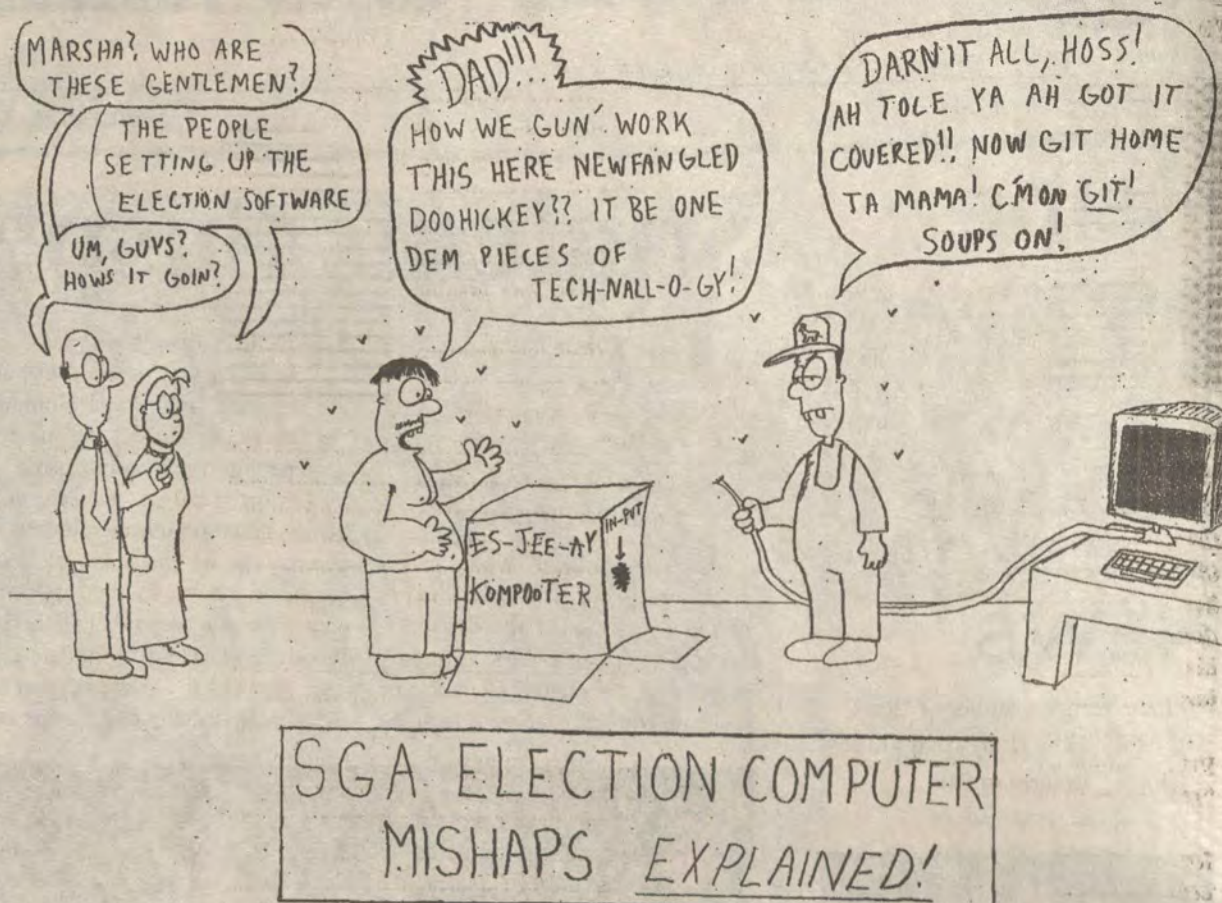
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Professor Clarifies His Statement

To the editors:

I want to clarify a statement I made in my interview with Coley Ward. In the search process for Athletic Director, candidates' resumes and other credentials on paper were compared and screened, and that is to what my quote referred. It should be noted further that because his credentials were strong, Ken McBryde's name was then added to the list to be interviewed, he was interviewed, and it became clear that he was the best qualified candidate for the position.

-Art Ferrari, Professor of Sociology

YOU'RE DEFINITELY NOT STRAIGHT

BENJAMIN CARMICHAEL • PRELUDE



The situation: I'm standing, wearing my habitual sports coat and jeans, in the basement of Windham last Thursday night, chatting away with my friends. I'm not disturbing anybody; I'm merely being normal me (a condition that I do not believe provokes people to insult me).

Then, all of a sudden, a drunken freshman walks out of the doorway in which I was standing, and addressing me says, "You are definitely not straight."

My response: Silence. I did not know what to do, or what to say. All I could do was stand there in a state of shock while a mutual friend of ours (whom I now thank) put an end to the situation. At the time, I did not know what to say or how to react for it defies all that I have strived against, all that I have deceived myself into believing doesn't exist, all that I loathe in mankind. At the time, I would have acted as rashly as he. Now, I wish to respond – if you are reading this, whomever you may be that so insulted both me and yourself, consider the following as my response.

I have devoted a large portion of my time and energy to the current battle for basic human rights; being one that holds freedom as necessary for human happiness and as an inherent human right, I willingly led my high school's Gay/Straight Alliance for two years. Having grown up in a public high school in Maine, and having led said alliance, I came to know not just homophobia but also an all encompassing, blinding fear of alternative sexualities, of anything other than straight. My experience at Concord Academy also blinded me, in a way: the sincere compassion with which people treated others of any sexuality was delightfully unique. It was, in almost every sense, wonderful, and yet, as I never encountered homophobia on the CA campus, I fear that I lost sight of the battle for which I was and am still fighting. Likewise, I thought that Connecticut College was a compassionate campus, one in which all students are free to express themselves without exception. Though I know my shocking encounter is not indicative of the entire campus, it does highlight the sad fact that we are not free from judgment, hate, and ignorance, and that we are not free to express ourselves. Thus, I say the following:

We live in a country based upon freedom. Bestowed upon Americans on July 4th, 1776 was the uncon-

strained freedom embodied within "certain unalienable Rights. Each day we live and pursue that lofty goal defined by "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness," and yet these ideals have yet to be realized. Freedom is the right of not merely every American, but of every human. If we take this to be true, then we cannot deny anybody the right to express themselves sexually.

The state of the current struggle for gay rights in America is both inspiring and saddening. America has not fulfilled its promise. America has not granted every "equal" American the right to the free pursuit of happiness. Currently, only a few states recognize civil unions of same sex couples while legislature that would ban such recognition is currently being considered, or has already been passed, in other states. The message that this legislature sends is complex and troubling; it says that only heterosexuals are equal, it reneges on this country's claim to the unalienable rights of mankind, and it sends the clear message that this country is indeed not free, though we might like to think of it as such. In the face of this failure are the resounding voices that collectively support the gay rights movement. These voices rightly demand freedom, equality, and justice from the very government that, in its founding document, promises them and yet currently denies them such rights.

We live in a country that has made promises but does not deliver. We live in a country that claims to be free and yet has been defined by slavery. Some say that the civil rights movement is over, that we are living in a post-human rights age, and yet this is not true. Though I cherish the United States of America's sacred ground, its citizens are not free. We continue to struggle for basic civil rights and for elementary human rights. Resounding within the voice of the gay rights battle is the same robust voice that resonates within the American principle of freedom and equality. The voice of this battle calls for its "unalienable right" to justice and to "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." To deny anyone this right, to use the word "gay" in a pejorative yet sarcastic manner, to walk up to a complete stranger and attempt to deride them with the words "You are definitely not straight," is to deny the founding principles of this country.

So, next time you go to call someone or something "gay," or as you sit idly by while someone does, think about your claim to being an American, or more fundamentally, about the inherent rights of mankind.

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OPINION

THE NEED FOR SPEEDY

TIM STEVENS • COMPLAINT OF THE WEEK



Speedy Gonzales, everyone's favorite Academy Award winning ultra-fast Mexican mouse has met his doom. It is not how we would hope an Academy Award winning ultra-fast Mexican mouse would go out, in battle with a cat, dying like the hero he was to the Mexican Mouse population. No, his demise was brought about much in the same way all our deaths will come: Ted Turner ordered it.

Turner, who still lacks sway over the weather, controls just about everything else in our world, including the Cartoon Network. The Cartoon

Network has acquired exclusive rights to the Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies Warner Brothers cartoons where such seminal icons as Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck first gained recognition. When Cartoon Network made this acquisition, word came down from on high to cease the showing of Speedy cartoons due to the ethnic stereotypes they portray. Although Speedy has leaked onto the air occasionally (apparently Turner's pursuit of dominance over the weather prevents him from paying as much attention to his multimedia juggernaut as he would like), it seems that Señor Gonzales has been undone by these concerns.

Additionally, according to Daniel Wineman of the Cartoon Network Programming Department, Speedy cartoons also contain such demons as: "references to drinking, laziness, drug use, and womanizing."

Of course, this is not the first time Looney Tune cartoons have been cut for fear of overstepping racial boundaries. The two most prominent examples concern certain cartoons that depict stereotypes of blacks and of Japanese individuals. Complaints about the inappropriateness of Looney Tunes cartoons have also dogged Warner Brothers for most of the past two decades.

What makes this time unique is that it is not just the elimination of an episode or series of episodes but rather an entire character. Compounding the rarity of the situation is that Mexican ethnic interest groups did not set the process in motion, as was the case with prior "banning" of episodes, and have in fact taken a position of attempting to reinstate Speedy into the Looney Tunes lineup.

My knee-jerk reaction is that the Cartoon Network is just being silly. I grew up with these cartoons, and I do not hate Mexicans. In fact, it is fairly safe to say that I am more tolerant than many who have never encountered that Academy Award winning ultra-fast Mexican mouse. Pat Buchanan probably did not receive a Looney Tunes education until later in life, and the man is all for building a wall around America to keep out Mexicans (got to love going for the obvious Pat Buchanan-Mexicans joke).

I mean, it is silly, isn't it? In ten years, will there be a debate about whether or not old South Park episodes can be aired due to their depiction of Canadians as square-bodied, oval-headed individuals whose lower jaws do not connect to the rest of their heads when they speak? (Perhaps the accuracy of this portrayal will simply remove any controversy from that particular debate.)

Or is it really all that silly? After all, they have removed other episodes in the past for racial issues, and I have supported those removals. Is this all that different? Speedy Gonzales is smart, fast, and a whiz with the ladies. His cousin Slowpoke Rodríguez, while none of these, still manages to see his way through ridiculously dangerous scenarios involving humans, cats, explosives, anvils, and other fine Acme products. However, the duo is surrounded by Mexican mice who are lazy, frightened creatures that do little more than hide and hang out. Is this stereotype any less insulting?

In the end, it all comes down to a matter of degrees. The "banned" episodes involving Japanese stereotypes embraced World War II editorial cartoon depictions of the Japanese as buck toothed war mongers. Those featuring African Americans portrayed them as the dancing, smiling slave or hobo, sort of the Antebellum South's version of the life of a slave. These stereotypes were the focus of the episode and stereotypes that have taken years upon years to force out of the public's consciousness.

In the case of Speedy, Speedy (not his stereotypical cohorts), is the focus. The difference is small, yes, but distinctive. One need look no further than Hispanic.com and other Mexican special interest groups to confirm this. They want Speedy back because he, despite being an animated mouse, is a role model.

As for me, I just want to laugh. And for my money, there is nothing quite as funny as an Academy Award winning ultra fast Mexican mouse outsmarting that ugly American Sylvester and out-racing anything that Acme can make.

WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET

COLEY WARD • VIEWPOINT



A lot of high school guidance counselors are more concerned with getting their students into the Ivy League than they are with dispensing advice. Mine was an exception.

Jeff Haviland was a child of the sixties. His office was papered with the faces of the Beatles, Led Zeppelin, and Jim Morrison. Jeff didn't wear a tie, and he didn't need a last name. When his students went to his office, it was more often just an occasion to hang out than to talk about the future.

When I went to Jeff in the fall of my junior year to talk about colleges, he encouraged me to explore all my options. Two years and dozens of office visits later, Jeff had convinced me to take a sabbatical year before going on to more schooling. In the fall following my high school graduation, I did maintenance work at a Chateau in rural France. In the Spring, I taught math and coached basketball at a boarding school for Aborigines and Torre Strait Islanders in Australia.

Last fall, Jeff asked me for guidance. His daughter is a high school senior and is seriously considering attending Connecticut College next year. Jeff wanted to know what I thought about my experience at Connecticut College. Would I recommend it to his daughter?

I didn't know what to say to this question. My first instinct whenever somebody asks about Conn is to shove them in the direction of the Office of Admission, shouting, "let's go, Camels!" But I don't know why I'm always so anxious to recommend Connecticut College to people. I have absolutely no idea of what this school has to offer over any of its competitors.

Connecticut College has treated me well over my three years here, though it certainly hasn't lived up to all of its promises – and by promises, I mean the things that I was led to believe that I could expect over a four year stay. Among those things was a single room every year following my freshman year, five operational dining halls, the opportunity to study abroad, and

the renovation of Marshall and Hamilton dormitories.

Ok, so I have had a single room every year, but these days there are plenty of sophomores and juniors in doubles and triples. And I did study abroad, but the study abroad office no longer maintains the same open door policy that it used to. It is commonplace to hear of students with respectable GPAs that get denied from study abroad.

Marshall and Hamilton, for their parts, will one day get renovated, but not anytime soon and probably not in time for the class of 2006 to take advantage of them. Ditto with the old dining halls. The kitchen equipment was sold off when Burdick and Smith were closed down.

Personally, I've never gotten too upset by Conn's broken promises, but I'm a "glass if half full" kind of guy. Being a journalist, the way I always looked at it was, if things were really bad at the College – and they occasionally were – at least I had something to write about.

So what did I tell Jeff when he asked if his daughter should come to Conn? I told him that his daughter should look at the school and what it had to offer. With Connecticut College, what you see is what you get. If you've got any problems with our facilities, then go somewhere else, because nothing big is going to change any time soon. I don't think anybody on this campus is claiming otherwise.

I talked to Dean of Admission Martha Merrill, and she said that the Priorities Planning and Budget Committee has modest goals for the coming year. The PPBC wants to maintain quality in athletics and student life. That's it. No new AC. No new dorms. No new dining halls. We're just trying to hang on to what we've got.

The big project on the budget for this coming year is a new information system. It's very expensive, but unlike a new weight room or dining hall, you'll barely even notice when we get it.

So if you've got any friends that are thinking about coming to Connecticut College, tell them to come visit. If they like what they see, great. That's what they'll get. But not much more.

HEY JOHN PAUL, WAKE UP AND SMELL THE MYRRH

SARAH GREEN • VIEWPOINT



Is anyone even following the pedophilic priest debacle? Or are we just going about our business, letting the stream of media coverage flow over us? I have to say, I haven't really been paying attention. Another day, another molestation. Damn shame, say I, as I flip back to ESPN. But the days turned into weeks and the weeks into months. Nothing unusual with that—the last time I checked my calendar, back in 1998 or thereabouts, that's how I remember it going. But with each passing day, a new scandal

broke until a small pile of pedophiles had become a mountain of molesters.

But inane wordplay aside, the Catholic Church really needs to get with the program. Raised a Protestant, I feel a little out of place making that claim—but I think plenty of Catholics would back me up on this one. No one really wants a pervert for a priest.

Molestation in the Christian religion is a Catholic problem. In each of the Protestant denominations in the United States, there have been two or three cases of child molestation in the past forty years, according to a recent article in the New York Times. In the American Catholic Church, there have been more than eighty. (And that's not counting the recent explosion of discoveries.) Why is this? Some people have explained these lopsided numbers by assuming that large numbers of priests are probably repressed homosexuals who fled to the priesthood to avoid having to come to terms with their sexuality.

What a crock! The Catholic Church has never exactly been "open and affirming." Now it's looking for a scapegoat, and gay priests are the obvious choice. But there is no reason that a gay priest would be any more likely to violate his vow of celibacy than a straight priest. Furthermore, some estimates say that as much as fifty percent of the priesthood is gay, despite a Vatican ban on ordaining individuals "affected by the perverse inclination to homosexuality or pederasty." Aside from the obviously offensive and totally groundless link between homosexuality and pederasty, if the Church were to enforce this ban it would lose a number of good priests in an age when

fewer and fewer men are choosing the religious life. Of course, the Church could always decide to ordain women and solve the problem, at least in part. But that would be much too progressive for a Church that only pardoned Galileo in 1992.

No, I'm afraid the real problem here is with that vow itself. Protestant pastors and reverends are allowed to marry. God told us to be fruitful and multiply. In fact, in the Jewish tradition, husband and wife are encouraged to do a little horizontal mambo in celebration of the Sabbath. If God really has such a problem with sex, even the most die-hard Creationist would be hard-pressed to explain the existence of the clitoris, the only organ in the human body that exists solely to give pleasure. Four hundred nerve endings can't be wrong!

In case the Old Testament doesn't do it for you, think about Jesus for a minute. As a historical figure, Jesus wasn't exactly a pillar of the community, as much as he was a vagabond philosopher, wandering about the Middle East with his band of merry men and Mary Magdalene, who, let's not forget, was a prostitute. Not to cast aspersions on the Son of God, but more educated people than I have suggested that Mary may have been his common-law wife. Many of the apostles traveled with their wives, including Peter (considered to be the spiritual ancestor of the popes). Even the unmarried Paul wrote: "It is well for a man not to touch a woman. But because of the temptation to immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband." (1 Cor. 7:1, 2)

The history of celibacy within the Catholic Church comes not from any scriptural basis, but from a tradition among Babylonian and Roman priests. Other historians argue that priests were not compelled to take the vow of celibacy until 1139, and then only to clarify matters of inheritance: married priests living on church land would try to leave that land to their heirs.

Religion and sex don't have to be at odds with one another. The Catholic Church does not have to be an anachronism. Which is holier, ordaining woman and allowing priests to marry, or continuing to shun change while men of God molest children?

PAY ATTENTION

ERIC SEVERSON • ...AND JUSTICE FOR ALL



Ok, folks, it's time to get down to some serious business. I know that this past week has been absolutely beautiful and that it has filled us all with the temptation to skip class, spend the day at Ocean Beach, and withdraw from the world around us. This is perfectly understandable. I also understand that with final papers looming on the horizon, folks are getting ready to leave everything in the outside world behind them until Summer Break, or for my class, graduation. However, given what is taking

place in the world around us, it would be wrong of us to turn our heads away completely.

It seems that the conflict in Afghanistan is winding to a close, but this is hardly the reassuring conclusion that many of us had hoped for. In a speech on Wednesday, April 17, the President made it fairly clear that he is willing to expand armed conflict into other theaters to prosecute the War on Terrorism. I ask the same question I was asking back in September: how far are you willing to let this conflict go? How many civilian casualties would you deem acceptable to bring this war to its successful conclusion? Is a foreign policy, which actively and aggressively opposes Iraq, Iran, and North Korea a sensible one? Will vigorous action in those theaters serve our national interests, or will it simply create a prolonged war with tens or hundreds of thousands of lives lost?

James Madison, a wiser man than myself, once noted that prolonged and expensive wars are more likely to destroy governments than anything else one could think of. Overzealous military ambition has been the

undoing of kings, emperors, generals and presidents since civilization began. This is the case for three primary reasons. First, prolonged wars never fail to sap national treasuries and always lead to high taxes and inflation. Second, extended military conflict eventually leads to resentment and despair. Finally, as Immanuel Kant pointed out, war never truly produces peace, but rather a temporary truce, in which the losing side angrily plots revenge. Against this, any plans to expand the military campaign to root out terrorism must be regarded with extreme caution by every one of us.

Another issue that is not getting its fair share of attention in the media or in classroom discussions is the American government's response to the situation in Venezuela. Last Friday, President Hugo Chavez was deposed by forces led by Pedro Carmona, only to return to power two days later. Every Western democracy condemned this ousting of a democratically-elected official except one: you guessed it, our very own U.S. of A. Chavez is not an ideal or even a very good leader by any stretch of the imagination, and his global vision is the polar opposite of that of our own administration. However, he was and is the President elected by the popular vote (something we might want to look into in this country). If we are to claim to be stewards of democracy, supporting the overthrow of elected leaders is the height of hypocrisy.

I know most of you probably aren't even going to read this. Of those of you who do, I know that most of you are probably going to lay out on a blanket on Larrabee Green tomorrow until you forget everything I've written here. However, if just one of you stops to think about the situation in this world and what you might do about it, I will feel that I have done my job.

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ARTS&ENTERTAINMENT

Asian Troupe Delivers Emotional Performance for Eclipse Weekend

BY DAWN HOPKINS

STAFF WRITER

In celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, Peeling Performing Arts Troupe performed in Evans Hall in connection with Eclipse Weekend. Peeling is a New York City-based group consisting of writers, performers, and directors who collaborate on the exploration of Asian American identities. Their fantastic performance covered a variety of social subjects in eleven acts.

The performance opened with an interesting piece called "L.F.A.N.H.," a solo act by Celena Cipriano presented as a letter to a former crush Eric, who inspired the title by calling the character a "little feminist Asian Nazi Hitler." Full of emotion, the piece suggests that racism can come from anyone. The humorous remarks throughout the verbalized letter express her inability to formulate an adequate response on the spot, since she always forgets how to be witty when she is insulted.

Another intriguing monologue, "Kim Chi Woman," involved a woman sitting in a bar and observing that everyone, male and female, looks good. Aileen Cho does a comical rendition of a conversation she has with a woman in the bar. After confirming that Cho's character is indeed Korean, "Alice in Alcoholic Wonderland" proceeds to expound on her love of Kim Chi. The humorous interaction provides an interesting look into people's tendency to stereotype cultures.

While some of the pieces were monologues, there were a number of exceptionally humorous pieces with multiple actors. In "The Chase," a couple in the throws of passion suddenly realizes that they do not have any pro-



Performers from the Peeling Performing Arts Group entertain students (Berry).

tection. Searching desperately, the couple goes door to door, to the Health Center, and even to audience members hoping to find a condom. Unfortunately, chasing down protection can definitely get one out of "the mood."

One of the especially entertaining acts was "Mercury Mercury." Two

performers realistically performed the process of a guy trying discreetly to express his interest in a girl. With comical facial expressions, the guy hints that he has something that he really should tell her. Finally, he admits that he used to have a crush on her. This leads to her lengthy and amusing inquiry into his use of the past tense.

In another act, the story of a short-lived relationship reveals itself through the separate descriptions of the relationship's evolution by both parties involved. "He Said/She Said" provides a detailed and explicit rendition of how a relationship moved too quickly. It emphasized how sex changed things in their relationship and how they really did not know each other very well.

The final act certainly raised eyebrows in the audience. Set in a church, a fraternal set of twins discusses their violent relationship. The more pious twin describes her amusing interpretation of church rituals and how to appear to be praying by saying "dead kittens." By the end, both realize that the violent tendencies of one toward the other stem from incestuous inclinations.

All of the acts presented poignant topics including relationships, homosexuality, personal struggles, and religion in respect to Asian Americans. At the end of the show all of the performers participated in a question and answer session. Members of the group come from a wide spectrum of professions and the acts are often based on both personal experiences and improvisation. Sponsored by the Connecticut College Asian American Student Association, this phenomenal event is one of many occurring during APA Heritage Month, so be sure to attend upcoming events.

Beethoven Comes to Connecticut College

BY HEATHER DE BARI

STAFF WRITER

Charles Sherba, violinist, and Gary Chapman, pianist, performed "The Complete Sonatas For Violin and Piano by Ludwig Van Beethoven: Concert II" this Sunday, April 14 in Evans Hall in the Cummings Art Center at 7:30 p.m. I attended the "Faculty Chamber Recital" in late February of this year, and watching this concert was a wonderful reminder of our music faculty's professionalism and enthusiasm. Charles Sherba, first violinist of the Charleston String Quartet, has performed in the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Aspen Festival Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony, and others. Sherba has also been chosen for the first Starling-DeLay Symposium on Violin Studies at the Juilliard School. Gary Chapman is also a veteran performer, who has displayed his talents at many locations, including The American Embassy in Paris, Wigmore Hall in London, the Spoleto USA Festival in South Carolina, Yale at Norfolk, The National Gallery of Art, and others. Chapman has completed a CD

component to the book "Listening to Classic American Popular Songs" (Allen Forte) with pianist Richard Lalli. Having a strong interest in jazz and other genres of music, Chapman is part of the Elite Syncopation and performs music by Roger Kellaway and Arnold Franchetti.

The concert consisted of three sonatas. The first, "Sonata No. 4 in A minor," was more chaotic-sounding than the following sonatas. The second part of "Sonata No. 4: Andante scherzoso più allegretto" sounded more whole and merry in comparison to the first. The third part, "Allegro molto," consisted of many outbursts of loud, dramatic tones. The piano played a short series of notes, and the violin imitated it, creating a call and answer. The first part of the second sonata, "Sonata No. 5 in F (Spring): Allegro," sounded like someone was playing with a speed button; for about three minutes, the music became quicker and then slowed down. Pizzicato (plucking of violin strings) was incorporated into the second and third sonatas, and this made me focus on the intricate handwork involved in playing the piano or violin. The first part of the third sonata,

"Sonata No. 9 in A minor: Adagio sostenuto-Presto," was the most misleading- Chapman and Sherba made you believe that the song was over, but then they would start up again with soft or loud notes. It sounded as though someone was changing tracks on a cassette- one type of song seemed to be playing, and then a different type followed.

I don't think Beethoven wanted to tell any particular story in his sonatas. It seems he may have just wanted to experiment with the sounds to see which ones belonged together. His sonatas have a characteristically good sound to them. Almost all of the parts to each sonata contained small, repeating sections. It's quite impressive for someone who was deaf; music is truly something that can be felt and doesn't have to be created on the auditory level.

It was so refreshing to listen to the Beethoven Sonatas after a long weekend. Having seen Sherba and Chapman perform before, I knew that it was going to be a good show. They clapped so loudly that after all three pieces, the pianist and violinist came out for a bow.

Asian Poet Xue Di Shares His Work

BY MARISSA ZANETTI

STAFF WRITER

Last Wednesday, poet Xue Di read selections of his poetry in the Charles Chu Asian Reading Room. Along with the East-Asian Language and English departments, CCASA sponsored this event in honor of Asian Pacific American awareness month. Di, along with his good friend and translator, Keith Waldorp, read some of his poems in both Chinese and English so the audience could hear the poetry in Di's native language.

Xue Di arrived at Brown University after leaving China shortly after the Tianamen Square Massacre. Di arrived at Brown, unfamiliar with the language and culture, to participate in the university's "Freedom to Write" program. This program celebrates the spirit of free expression, which the Chinese government did not condone at the time of Di's departure. Xue Di began writing poetry in 1980 and has published many books since then, in both English and Chinese. Keith Waldorp has taken on the job of translating Xue Di's poetry, thus increasing his audience to include English speakers as well.

Xue Di chose selections from many of his collections. *Flames* (1995) contains poems that pay homage to the artist Vincent Van Gogh. Di explained that Van Gogh is very popular in China and chose to illustrate his paintings through poetry, focusing on the spirit and the meaning of the artwork. Other collections include *Heart into Soil* (1998) and his current project, *An Ordinary Day*.

Each poem that Xue Di read captured the essence of a different time in his life. "Hotel Viking" was written there and was meant to explain not only Di's first stay in a hotel, but also his first reflections on America and capitalism. Xue Di delighted the audience with anecdotes about each poem, sharing stories of both emo-

tional periods in his life and humorous experiences.

At the conclusion of the reading, Xue Di invited the audience to ask questions about his poetry. One question addressed the differences in the poetry that Di wrote before he came to the United States and his work after he became accustomed to a new and different way of life. The poetry written in China had a very definite earth tone, relying on images of nature and family to convey emotion, while the poetry he wrote in the United States focuses more on what is written "between the lines."

The images in his earlier poetry present a picture on the surface. Di's more recent poetry emphasizes the sound and organization of the language. Di explained that when he was writing in China there was always something to fight against, the government, his family, etc. But when he came to the United States, he found nothing to fight against and spent time looking inward to find answers to his questions.

Di admitted that he was unable to write poetry for many months after he left China. This change in culture and lifestyle greatly affected the style of his poetry.

The evening was very enjoyable. The poetry was wonderful and having the opportunity to experience it in Chinese only added to its meaning. The emotion of the poem could be felt in the tone of the language, making it possible to understand its meaning without hearing the poems in English.

The Charles Chu reading room was the perfect place for the reading to be held. The room was full of both students and faculty who were greatly

appreciative of Xue Di's reading. This was a wonderful opportunity for two academic departments and CCASA to jointly present an event aimed at increasing awareness of other cultures.

Big Trouble: It Works on So Many Levels

Big Trouble



Rated: Pg-13

Length: 1 hour 33 minutes

Starring: Damn Near Everybody...and Johnny Knoxville

Directed by: Barry Sonnenfeld

Summary: A botched attempt at tackling Dave Barry's first novel.

BY MICHAEL LEIBA

STAFF WRITER

Imagine yourself trapped inside the belly of a jumbo-jetliner, and everywhere on the frozen metal floor are banana peels that the army of clowns surrounding you continues to slip on as they make their way toward the ticking time bomb that threatens to blow you higher than you already are. You are helpless to avoid the catastrophe, paralyzed with intractable laughter. At once terrified and mirthful, you realize that the only thing real about this scenario is that some movie studio actually paid millions of dollars to have something like this made and that there is an old woman behind you who continues to make loud comments like "they're so inept." In fact, they are inept, although it's not an army of clowns at all but Tim Allen doing battle with Tom

Sizemore and Johnny Knoxville aboard a prop plane being followed by U.S. jet-fighters.

This is basically what it feels like to sit through the latest offering from director Barry Sonnenfeld (MIB, Get Shorty), a comedic ensemble piece featuring such talents as Tim Allen, Rene Russo, Omar Epps, Heavy D, Jason Lee, Janeane Garofalo, Andy Richter, and Dennis Farina. The film entangles the stories of these numerous good-guys, bad guys, and sometimes in-between guys, all set to bake under the Miami sun and unable to avoid each other.

The film is based on the novel of the same name by nationally syndicated columnist and generally bad idea for a TV show, Dave Barry. Now, if you're at all familiar with Barry's brand of humor you might want to avoid this film. Just kidding-but at least know that you're in for a totally implausible look at the world of crime by a man who obviously knows nothing about it. In this underbelly of an underworld, hit men carry guns in golf bags while policemen give stripteases and Russian arms dealers wear Adidas tracksuits and hire longhair north-erners to handle the goods. Sound believable? Well it doesn't really matter because it's not funny either.

The film opens with a quite Barry-esque monologue delivered by none other than Mr. Allen, here properly restrained from grunting under Sonnenfeld's direction, in



which he muses over the multifarious possibilities of anything that might happen in this oddball world in which we all live. Boy, does he have this movie pegged or what? We are then introduced to all the different characters who reside in this crazy beach-town and whom we will all become quite familiar with over the next ninety or so minutes. We get a pair of redneck yokels, three horny teens, two horny parents, one big cop, and one small cop, two Russians who like to watch women's aerobics competitions on the television, and Puggy, a Frito-loving nomad who lives in a tree. The aforementioned Fritos and women's aerobics are actually just two of the gags the movie chooses to run with and kill from exhaustion by its conclusion.

The main problem with this movie is that after we have been

given our initial introductions to these characters, who have quite a bit of promise, the plot keeps rolling but the characters gradually lose their quirkiness through a repetition of jokes that leaves the entire movie feeling sort of flat. Still, there are a number of funny ideas in the film, including a gigantic frog that makes Stanley Tucci and his dog begin to hallucinate, and also the jokes made to demean Florida gator fans. The sort of stylization in this film was much better suited to Sonnenfeld's work on *Get Shorty* and I kind of wish he had left the high gloss characteristics right there where they belonged. If you happen to be looking for a film ripped from the most asinine and obscure headlines of the entire human comedy then go see *Big Trouble*, otherwise just go and rent *Get Shorty* and remember when Rene Russo was still hot.

Jordan Geary

Dorm Life



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Hard Work Pays off at Student Recital

By NANCY DINSMORE
ASSOCIATE A&E EDITOR

Students in the Music Department delivered a harmonious evening of music to a crowd of students and guests in Harkness Chapel last Wednesday evening. The concert consisted of performances mainly by voice students, although it also featured both a piano piece and a bassoon quartet. Roxanne M.L. Althouse, Paul Althouse, and Linda Skernick accompanied most of the students on piano.

The chapel provided an ideal setting for the recital. The singers' voices resonated just right, as the acoustics are superb, and all of the students did an excellent job projecting. The atmosphere in the chapel also lent a serious tone to the performance.

The singers all introduced themselves and their pieces before they performed. This was helpful because it gave the audience some background about their selections. Since many of the songs were in another language, it was important for the singer to explain the emotion and story behind his or her piece

in order to give the audience a greater understanding of its significance.

The students who performed voice pieces were Elizabeth Pollock, Rachel Lamson, Amelia Sholik, Rachel Lamson, Eunice Kua, Jenny David, Meredith Meserve, Christine Duncan, Anna Watson, and Jessalyn Sadler. Makoto Parker, Lillian Kolack, and Caitlin McIntosh, the bassoon quartet, all played the song "Pigs," by Ridout. The voice selections included "Flow My Tears," by Dowland, "A Lullaby" by Stanford, a selection from Handel's Messiah, "When From my Love," by Bartlet, and "Mon Coeur se recomande a vous," among other songs.

The performance, which took place on Wednesday, April 10, exhibited the hard work of all of the students who took part in the performance. Once again, the music department proved the depth and range of its students and teachers. It was an enjoyable evening for all who attended.



Student performs at vocal recital (Stenger).

Thought For Food: Finding The Spot



By Jess DeSantis

To any college student, the prospect of a dinner out with family is always enticing. But as eagerly anticipated as the event may be, it is inevitably tinged by a few moments of panic. You may know the drill. Your mom doesn't really care where you go as long as the restaurant isn't too smoky, your sister wants a place where she can get a calorically-balanced salad and dessert (actually, maybe that's just my sister), your dad is all about a good steak, and your brother just wants to eat. What you need is the "people's restaurant," that culinary Xanadu with something for everyone. Even after almost four semesters as a New London resident, I found myself at quite a loss for potential dinner destinations when my mom and sister came to visit last Sunday evening. So after halfheartedly considering the usual chart-topping family favorites, i.e. Steak Loft and friends, we decided to live dangerously and try someplace totally new.

After driving skeptically through Groton, where chain restaurants go to heaven, we eventually located a small and slightly sketchy looking hole-in-the-wall on the corner of Buddington and Poquonnock. Wary of its mobile home-y exterior but intrigued by its suggestive name and its promise of fresh pasta, we concurred that The Spot seemed worth a try.

The restaurant was dimly lit and perhaps smokier than my mom would have liked, although she didn't complain—a good sign. Though its Fill-In-the-Name-of-Your-Hometown Bar and Grill milieu, complete with rowdy, beer-clutching, sportscast-riveted contingent initially put me off, I looked on the bright side. Places like this are always good for at least one thing. Nachos. However, it turned out I was too quick to judge what my mom later described as an "eclectic menu." After perusing The Spot's comprehensive catalog of food choices, I went out on a limb and decided to order Chicken Coq Au Vin, which apparently has something to do with the aforementioned meat, mushrooms, bacon, onions, and burgundy cream sauce. Figuring that between the nachos and the pasta I would be covering the culinary spectrum, I traded in my snobby side (who usually only orders pasta in places with checkered tablecloths, candles, fresh

Arthur Avenue bread, and a Sinatra eight-track) for a less political, more universally food-loving approach. Similarly liberated, my mom ordered Chicken Marsala over fettuccine with marsala wine and mushrooms in brown sauce. Meg,

our resident on-again, off-again health nut, opted for the veggie burger, topped with onions, bacon, mushrooms, and Swiss cheese.

Within minutes of ordering, the nachos arrived. Surprisingly light, they were a class above the anticipated pile of brightly-colored grease. My mom was amazed at how "crispy" they were and surmised that they must have been baked (at which point I concluded that every food writer should take their mother with them when they eat out). Meg was so impressed by our appetizer that she was unaware the conversation had turned. When I noted the Spice Girls' panting in the background, Meg responded, "I don't think they're that hot...Like, there's no afterburn," apparently still hung up on the nachos.

Just as we were licking the plate clean, our bubbly waitress returned to present the entrees. Swimming in what would more accurately be described as basins rather than bowls, the eternal pasta not only lived up to its reputation but actually bred right there in front of us (after two sittings, I still have leftovers). While the bacon added lots of flavor, the sauce could have been more prominent. Still, you have to give a place that is proficient at both nachos and pasta some credit. Of her chicken, my mom said she could "really taste the marsala," and Meg gave her burger a thumbs-up, as well.

We decided upon a mysterious concoction entitled "chocolate something" for dessert. Though chocolate anything is ok in my book, I could have taken it or left it due to the appalling amount of food I had already consumed. However, I quickly got over that when the "something" turned out to be a parfait of chocolate sponge cake, whipped cream, and pudding—the kind where virtually every time you lift your spoon you end up with a different dessert.

So no need to worry next time you are playing host. If you feel the need to try something new and are willing to sacrifice looks for substance, I think you might be pleasantly surprised by this unassuming little venue. Aptly named, The Spot offers satisfaction for everyone.

There is No Need to Nurture Nature

By JEREMY MAKE
STAFF WRITER

It's 9:24 pm, one minute before opening night of *Human Nature* at the only theatre within 40 miles playing the film. And as the lights begin to fade, one lowly Bates sweatshirt wearer wanders in and sits by himself. We are the only three people in the enormous theatre. It's unfortunate because Being John Malkovich writer Charlie Kaufman's most recent adventure is an intellectual delight, a film which milks the absurd and eliminates any hope of sanity, reducing the entire audience to a collective, dumbstruck (but enchanted) mush.

The film begins with two white mice emerging from a dark hole, only to be chased over land and sea by a threatening black bird. Conspicuous, computer-generated animation and dizzying point of view shots finally fade into the meat of the film. A young, vibrant blonde, Lila Jute (Patricia Arquette), sits in front of a panel of similarly threatening old men, relaying the events of her most eccentric life. She compares her body (and her adolescent years) to "a jail of blood and tissue and... hormones," speaking over the flashback of a younger Lila baring her pre-pubescent, hair-ridden chest. A most distraught young girl soon becomes a disgustingly hairy adult lying in a bathtub contemplating suicide. Kaufman's dark, ironic comedy is apparent as Lila moves to slit her wrist with the same razor she just used to shave her body. The scene is amusing but strikingly upsetting, a brilliant duality that Kaufman keeps constant throughout the film. I say Kaufman because first-time French director Michel Gondry's filming is simple, nothing really extravagant but smooth nonetheless. Kaufman's quirky screenplay makes the movie,

Human Nature

★★★★☆

Rated: R

Length: 1 hour 32 minutes

Starring: Patricia Arquette, Rhys Ifans, Tim Robbins

Directed by: Michel Gondry

Summary: Another witty story from the writer of Being John Malkovich

not the directing.

We are soon introduced to Puff Bronfman, who speaks in front of a courtroom filled with photographers and a panel of congressman. Puff, played by the versatile *Notting Hill* star, Rhys Ifans, is a mess of a man who was raised as an ape by his mentally ill father. Ifans, who normally has a strong Welsh accent, works around the dialogue well, playing a most convincing "ape man." He is, by far, the best part of *Human Nature*.

When Lila escapes to the woods, shunned by society for her strange, hormonal condition, we lose much of the sympathy previously established by the young Lila and the suicidal Lila. But when she breaks into song, naked and hairier than ever, we can't help but laugh. "I once thought God a creator diabolical. My friends these split ends. By the time I was 30, I was very horny," she sings as she scales the trees in a most unusual nude scene.

But Lila's longing for life back in civilized society brings her to an electrologist and soon-to-be friend played by everyone's favorite *White Men Can't Jump* bad girl, Rosie Perez, whose lack of talent is surpassed only by her well-polished art of annoyance. Luckily for Perez,



Kaufman's writing gives her the chance at redeeming her long since dwindled career by playing a sympathetic ear to Lila's troubles. Unfortunately, though, the relationship between the two is never clearly defined and seems forced.

At some point in this day of quaintness, Perez's character introduces Lila to a "30 year old virgin... with a small penis." He is Dr. Nathan Bronfman (Tim Robbins), a scientist who has devoted his time to teaching table manners to lab mice after his overly strict childhood with parents who sent him to his room for using the wrong fork for salad. We meet the pasty doctor at a table in a completely white room wearing a white suit. The only color in the entire frame is that of a small red drop of blood on his forehead, apparently made by a bullet. Robbins plays the deceased doctor well in this aesthetically ingenious scene, but it's far from a *Shawshank Redemption* performance. Even so, this may be Gondry's best call in the film as far as set design is concerned. The doctor's neurotic, overly analytical relationship with Lila is well developed as is the mad-scientist/Dr. Frankenstein personae of Nathan and his obsession with caging Puff and training him to

become the perfect gentleman. In fact, much of the film's memorable humor can be found in Nathan's determination to eliminate man's basest desire from Puff: sex. With *Clockwork Orange*-like methods, Nathan teaches Puff to play Peter Pan (singing "I got a crow"), ride a unicycle and juggle simultaneously, and watch an opera with a mannequin by his side, all while trapped inside a glass cage. In essence, Nathan teaches his pupil one, simply complex statement: "when in doubt, don't ever do what you really want to do."

Human Nature, at times, attempts to make itself a mockery of our unnatural, backwards society, but it pushes too hard. But while the acting is only mediocre, the script is truly brilliant, making a more digestible commentary on the absurdity of civilization's rules and manners. More obvious themes of nature vs. nurture luckily overshadow the abrupt, un-ended ending and make this comedy as intellectual and witty as it can be. With lines like "freedom is just another word for nothing left to lose," we realize that there is nothing to lose in seeing *Human Nature*. Well, maybe a brain cell or 1,000.

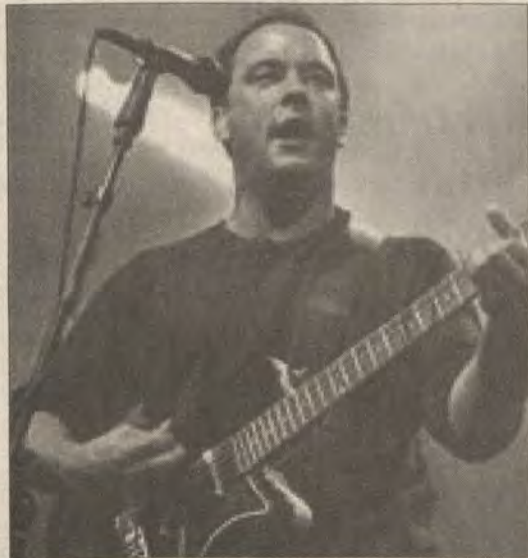
Dave Matthews Band Rocks the Fleet Center

By CHRISTINE DiCOMO
STAFF WRITER

On Monday, April 8, the Dave Matthews Band performed to a sold-out crowd at Boston's Fleet Center. A diehard DMB fan, I have seen the band perform many times at Foxboro Stadium, and this year's change in venue was only one of several changes in the band's performance style. Dave Matthews Band's musical talent, fortunately, has not changed. For this concert, they mixed in old favorites with songs from their newest album, "Everyday," as well as songs from the never released, but widely circulated online "Lillywhite Sessions."

Unfortunately, the concert was noticeably lacking in the drawn-out jam sessions that the Dave Matthews Band is famous for. Perhaps this was because most of the newer songs were recorded in a shorter and more radio-friendly format than their predecessors, at around three to four minutes each. But in any event, there were long pauses between each song, and none of the jamming to segue into the next song that Dave fans have come to expect. Also notably absent were songs off the brilliant album "Before These Crowded Streets." Nevertheless, the band did perform an entertaining show, and it was evident from the screaming, sold-out crowd that their fan base is just as loyal as ever.

The concert opened with "So Much to Say," which immediately got the audience to their feet, dancing and singing along. This was followed by a new song, "When the World Ends," from the



The Dave Matthews Band performed Monday in Boston.

"Everyday" album. A short series of older songs followed, including "Drive In Drive Out," "Lover Lay Down," and "Too Much." From the audience's reaction, it was clear that most fans preferred DMB's older work to the "Lillywhite" and "Everyday" songs. With the sad, mellow "Grace is Gone," the band brought the audience's energy level down a bit, but kicked it right back up again with the driving "Rhyme and Reason." This was followed by "Lie in Our Graves," which in my humble opinion is one of the greatest songs ever to hear live. This was the only song where the band really let loose and jammed, à la "Live at Red Rocks," and it was wonderful. Boyd Tinsley, who was clearly an audience favorite, shone on

this song, proving once again that every band should have its very own electric violin. After several more "Lillywhite" songs, including the beautiful "Grey Street," the band closed with "I Did It," the first single off their newest album.

Several minutes later, the band returned amidst chants of "Dave!" to perform their recent radio hit, "The Space Between" and "What Would You Say" as an encore.

While I, unlike many DMB fans, actually liked "Everyday," I still wished that the band would play more of their older hits and less new material. The concert was entertaining and the music was good, but I found myself missing the jam sessions and acoustic guitar that originally made the band famous. In addition, I quickly developed a newfound appreciation for good old Foxboro Stadium. While the Fleet Center is new and up-to-date and can sell more tickets than Foxboro, it is such a huge space that I could barely see the stage from my balcony view. All in all, however, the Dave Matthews Band proved that their musical talent is just as strong as ever, and they do not seem to be losing any fans despite their changes in musical style.

The opening band, Yerba Buena, was a Cuban "charanga band." Led by an extraordinary female singer, they performed an energetic mix of dance music in both English and Spanish. Audience members who arrived late missed out, because Yerba Buena's conga drums, belted vocals, and energetic rhythms definitely made the show worth arriving on time.

MOVIE TIMES

Hoyts Waterford 9

The Sweetest Thing (R) Fri-Thu (12:05 2:15 4:25) 6:45 9:00
Changing Lanes (R) Fri-Thu (12:15 2:35 5:00) 7:30 9:55
High Crimes (PG-13) Fri-Thu (1:10 4:00) 6:50 9:40
Big Trouble (PG-13) Fri-Thu 7:15 9:25
Clockstoppers (PG) Fri-Thu (12:00 2:30 4:50) 7:20 9:45
The Rookie (G) Fri-Thu (12:20 3:20) 6:30 9:20
Panic Room (R) Fri-Thu (1:00 3:40) 7:10 9:50
Blade II (R) Fri-Thu (12:40 3:15) 7:00 9:35
E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial (PG) Fri-Thu (12:30 3:30)
Ice Age (PG) Fri-Thu (12:10 2:20 4:40) 6:40 8:45

Hoyts Groton 6

National Lampoon's Van Wilder (R) Fri (5:00) 7:30 9:50, Sat-Thu (12:40 2:50 5:00) 7:30 9:50
High Crimes (PG-13) Fri (3:50) 6:50 9:30, Sat-Thu (1:15 3:50) 6:50 9:30
Panic Room (R) Fri (3:45) 7:00 9:35, Sat-Thu (1:00 3:45) 7:00 9:35
The Rookie (G) Fri (3:15) 6:30 9:15, Sat-Thu (12:30 3:15) 6:30 9:15
Clockstoppers (PG) Fri (5:10) 7:20 9:40, Sat-Thu (12:45 3:00 5:10) 7:20 9:40
Blade II (R) Fri (4:00) 7:15 9:45, Sat-Thu (12:50 4:00) 7:15 9:45

Hoyts Mystic 3

Frailty (R) Fri, Mon-Thu (4:00) 6:45 9:10, Sat-Sun (1:00 4:00) 6:45 9:10
Kissing Jessica Stein (R) Fri, Mon-Thu (3:45) 7:00 9:30, Sat-Sun (12:45 3:45) 7:00 9:30
Monster's Ball (R) Fri-Thu (3:30) 9:20
A Beautiful Mind (PG-13) Fri, Mon-Thu 6:30, Sat-Sun (12:30 6:30)

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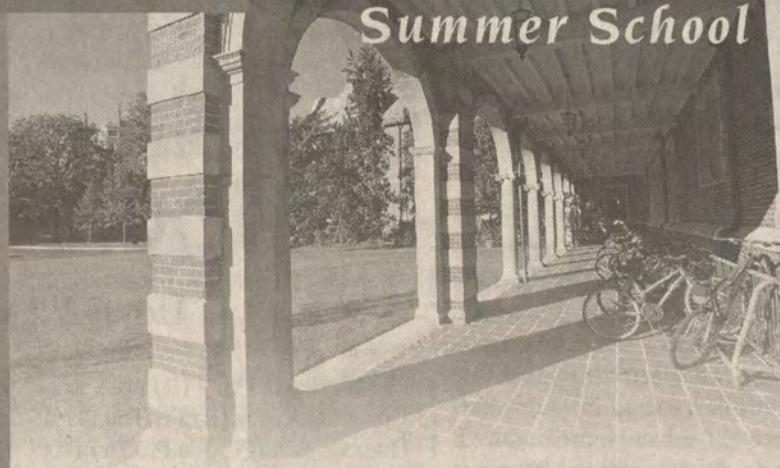
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CISLA Class of '04 Visits UN In New York City

By DANIEL JARCHO
STAFF WRITER

Over 30 sophomore members of the Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts recently visited New York City to tour the United Nations headquarters. The group met personally with UN delegates from Pakistan, Argentina, and the Philippines. While at the UN, the students got the chance to discuss important topics in politics and economics.

In addition to the group of 33 students, which included mostly sophomores and a few juniors and seniors, six members from CC faculty, staff, and administration attended. Among the non-students was Associate Director for CISLA, Mary Devins.

"Not only does this trip have a great social aspect to it for the students, but also, when you go to the UN, you really see for a moment

how big the world really is," stated Devins. "The students get to experience firsthand the issues faced by developing countries and other real-world problems. It just comes into focus for a moment that we are just one part in the system."

Prior to making the trip to the UN building and meeting with the actual delegates, new CISLA students, all members of IS 201: Perspectives on Modern Global Society, formed groups and practiced briefing each other on different political issues of the countries whose delegates they would meet with at the UN. The students chose to meet with delegates from Pakistan, the Philippines, and Argentina.

Katie Coffin '04, one of the 33 students attending, said, "In class, Usman Sheikh and Shaham Zafar, both students from Pakistan, gave us an excellent briefing on the history and current issues in that region of

the world, so our meeting with the delegate from Pakistan was very interesting."

In their briefing with the Pakistani Deputy Ambassador, CISLA students raised questions about the existing security dilemma between Pakistan and India, the status of the United States presence in Pakistan since the events of September 11th, and the possible reallocation of the country's funds designated for military purposes towards the country's educational needs.

In their meetings with the Argentinean delegate, most of the questions and discussion focussed on the current problems in Argentina's economy, while the meeting with the delegate from the Philippines focussed on the problems faced by the Muslim minority in the country. Cecile Dominguez '04, a CC student from the Philippines stated, "The country has

always been culturally, religiously, and economically very diverse, and most of the problems that the country is facing today dealing with terrorism etc. have to do with this history."

Prior to meeting personally with the delegates from the three countries, the CISLA students and faculty had lunch in the delegates' dining room. Following their tour and the briefings, the group went out to dinner at a French restaurant called Bistro Gules. Summing up the entire trip, Sheikh '04 stated, "It was a thoroughly informative and wonderful learning experience, not just because of the tour of the UN building, but more importantly, because we got a chance to observe how different delegates tackled the rather stiff questions posed to them by the very well-informed CISLA students."

Busy Admissions Season Yields Positive Results

Feature

By CAITLIN GREELEY
STAFF WRITER

During the month of April, it is not uncommon to see groups of confused but excited high school students and their parents touring Connecticut College. The next few weeks will be very busy ones for the admissions office, which mailed out its regular admissions decisions a little over two weeks ago.

This past year has been an especially unusual year for the admissions office, as it was for many colleges. According to Associate Director of Admission Jennifer Stein, the September 11th events played a major role in recruitment efforts, though not in the number of the applicants.

In fact, contrary to the predictions of the admissions committee, international applications did not go down. A higher percentage of students of color were also accepted, and Stein attributes this to programs designed to encourage minority students to apply to Conn, such as the recent Eclipse weekend.

The number of applications totaled 3,912, which declined from last year's 4,318. Stein could not

state a single cause for the decline in applications, but speculated that word may have spread that Connecticut College's standards are increasing, deterring potential applicants.

The expected size of the class of 2006 is 470 students, about the same as the class of 2005. 210 members of the class of 2006 were accepted via the early decision option and 1,170 were accepted regular decision, bringing the acceptance rate to 35.3%, slightly up from last year's 34.3%.

Judging from standardized test scores and class rank, those admitted to the class of 2006 appear to be very strong academically. 461 students, or 89%, ranked in the top quintile of their respective classes, while 62% ranked in the top decile. The median SAT scores in both verbal and math were 670.

There was a significantly higher percentage of students of color admitted this year. 75 African American students were accepted, up from 54 last year and the total percentage of minority students totaled 18, a considerable marker from the admissions standpoint.

Despite the repercussions of the September 11th events and a smaller applicant pool, the college has been

receiving tremendous turnout at events such as open houses, and in the past few weeks, a very large number of people have been turning up for tours. Oliva Hall was filled to capacity during last Monday's open house for an information session, and Stein said that she is encouraged by this turnout.

The recent budget cuts have not had a great impact on admissions. As long as the programs that differentiate Conn from its peer institutions such as the CELS funded internship, CISLA, CCBES, and the other centers remain in place students will still be attracted to Conn.

However, conversations between current and prospective Conn. students have not proven beneficial to admissions. The members of the admissions committee encourage prospective students to speak with current students about what they like and dislike about the college. If that student happens to be one that feels that they have been hurt in some way by the budget cuts, it may impact the prospective's decision to attend Conn.

In a year when there has been so much change, the recent turnover in leadership of admissions went "remarkably smoothly." Shortly after the previous Dean of

Admissions, Lee Coffin, departed from Conn, Martha Merrill, who was previously the director of admissions and a Conn College alumnus, stepped up to take the position as Dean. Stein called the decision to make Merrill Dean a "logical" choice, and one that made the transition very easy.

As the admissions policies at colleges evolve, Conn is trying to keep up with peer institutions through an increasing use of technology in the form of electronic applications as well as contact through e-mail, and promotions on the college web site. In addition, the admissions commitment to enrolling a diverse student body will only become stronger.

Looking beyond the class of 2006, the future classes at Conn look promising. Many current juniors have been visiting or expressing an interest in the college.

The next few weeks are an exciting time for the Office of Admissions, as the class of 2006 takes shape. The accepted students have very strong qualifications, and promise to be a positive addition to the college.

Arabs In Hollywood: Mistreatment and Misconceptions

By BEN MORSE
NEWS EDITOR

Last Thursday, renowned educator and author of the book "Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies A People" Dr. Jack Shaheen delivered a lecture in Olin Auditorium about the denigration of the Arab people in film throughout history and in light of recent events.

Though the event would prove an emotional experience for the speaker, Shaheen began in a warm and lighthearted manner, making jokes to break the ice. However, he quickly shifted the focus from humor to a more serious message about the wrongful persecution of the Arab people.

Before launching into a discussion of film in particular, Shaheen discussed America's tendency to implicate Middle Eastern people in terrorist events, citing the 1995 Oklahoma City Bombings: "Initially, the media assumed it was the work of Arab terrorists, and possible motivations based on their heritage became a big story. When it was discovered that the real culprit was Timothy McVeigh, his background as an Irish-American or a Christian was never part of the story was it?"

Shaheen went on to discuss the "lunatic fringe" and how it is not limited simply to Arabs or Muslims, but how things like abortion center bombings and even the Crusades have shown that all organized religions have a "lunatic fringe."

A large portion of the lecture centered around the influence of the media on racial perception. Shaheen explained, "When the media focuses in on one ugly horrific image, we don't tend to see the rest of the picture." He spoke of the generalization of the "cultural other" as "dark and different, inept in the bedroom and on the battlefield...always trying to steal the 'fair-haired maiden'."

One of the most interesting points of the lecture was a comparison between the perception of modern day Arabs and Jews in Nazi Germany. Shaheen noted similarities including facial features (most prominently a distorted nose), both being considered threats to society and to women, both having a "different God," and both supposedly placing emphasis on money and costume. He also noted that all Arabs are being blamed for the actions of a "lunatic fringe" in much the same way many Japanese-Americans were persecuted following the attack on Pearl Harbor.

After this lengthy preamble, Shaheen launched into the crux of his lecture: the film industry's treatment of Arabs. In doing research for his book, Shaheen watched over 200 films that portrayed Arab peoples in both positive and negative lights. He cited "The Leopard Woman (1920)," and "Nighthawks (1981)" as being just two films that cast Arabs in the familiar role of heartless terrorists. He said that most people he knows that have seen the film "Not Without My Daughter" are surprised because they "never thought of Iranians as having children."

Shaheen then showed several clips, first of the movie he considered to be the "most racist movie about Arabs ever made," "Rules of Engagement." In the clip, Samuel L. Jackson, playing an American soldier, was shown being fired on by a crowd of veiled Arabs that included women and small children. The clip brought Shaheen to tears as he said the film portrayed "all Muslims as being programmed to hate America" and asked, "What are men and women in our armed forces supposed to make of this?"

Shaheen did also show clips of "Three Kings" and "The 13th Warrior," both films he consulted on and both films that portray Arabs as real people and as heroes to a point, to demonstrate that positive films about Arabs did exist.

Before adjourning for a question & answer session and reception, Shaheen emphasized the need for television documentaries about the real Arabs and a summit of Hollywood creators to discuss the portrayal of the Arab. He concluded: "Stereotypes take a long time to wither away, but we've always tried as a people to address the wrongs we've done. Shared hopes and dreams will overcome stereotypes, we are all one family in the care of God."

Though some attendees felt Shaheen was "too preachy," there is no denying that he was also a powerful and emotional speaker. He presented a plethora of facts in his lecture and elicited strong response (both positive and negative) from his audience.

Dr. Shaheen is a Professor of Mass Communications Emeritus at Southern Illinois University, a two-time Fulbright scholar, and has served an advisor to CBS and on several films.

Mark LaFontaine Named New Vice President for Advancement

By ELIZABETH KNORR
STAFF WRITER

On May 13, Mark LaFontaine will join the Connecticut College community to serve as senior administrator for the Vice President for Advancement. President Fainstein announced the naming of LaFontaine, the current director for Yale College Programs at Yale University, to the position on April 5.

"I was looking for someone who could do a variety of things very well," said Fainstein. These things include being "highly effective at meetings and working with alumni, an excellent strategist, and articulate spokesman for the college, and a very good manager."

Fainstein saw all of these attributes in LaFontaine, adding that an additional factor in his selection was that, "I also, very importantly, found Mark to have profound understanding of what liberal arts colleges are all about."

Though LaFontaine was not looking to leave Yale, he says, "It seemed to me that this would be the perfect opportunity for me to take the experience that I had over the past nine years at Yale and use it at a place that had the same values in terms of the importance of a liberal arts education."

He points to his own undergraduate educational experience at Rollins College as building the strong value he gives to the liberal arts. He also cites the energy and vision of President Fainstein and his meetings with several faculty members as playing key roles in his decision to join the college.

"The sense of community and commitment to the place was so strong that it excited me," remarked LaFontaine.

As Vice President of Advancement, "Mark's job will be

to oversee all of the development functions of the college and alumni relations, and to coordinate the public relations function of the college as it relates to development and alumni relations," explained Aaron Bayer, the current Acting VP of Advancement. Additionally, as a senior administrator, LaFontaine will have a critical role in the strategic planning and management of the college, serving as one of nine administrators who join the President in all key decision making.

Emphasizing the importance of the job, Bayer stated, "You really can't do good strategic planning without a good understanding of where the money will come from."

LaFontaine will serve as the college's first permanent Vice-President of Advancement, filling a position that has been open since former Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations Claire Matthews stepped down in early January of 2001. Susan Stitt served as the acting vice president until December 31 of 2001. Since that time Aaron Bayer has been serving as the acting VP of Advancement in addition to maintaining his roles as Secretary of the College and General Council.

The position's name change from VP of Development and Alumni Relations to VP of Advancement marks a move to integrate more closely the college relations and development functions within the college.

A nationwide search to fill the position began this past fall. To aide in the search process, the college hired an executive search firm, which screened a first round of candidates before recommending a pool of about twenty. Fainstein conducted initial resume screenings and interviews, narrowing the pool to five. A search committee chaired by Professor Julie Rivkin of the English

department and containing two trustees, two faculty members, and an alumni member was created to assist in the interviewing of these candidates.

According to Rivkin, the members actually "worked as separate consultative representatives," with the faculty members conducting interviews on campus and the trustees interviewing in New York. Bayer notes, "It's very important for the Vice President of Advancement to be able to work well and closely with both faculty and trustees because both play very critical roles in fundraising here."

Senior administrators also met with candidates during the interview process, and in March a meeting was held where they joined the President and the search committee in a discussion of the potential choices.

The final selection was subject to the President, with whom the VP must work very closely. "Mark was chosen from a field that was deep and strong," said Fainstein, who is confident that the right decision has been made for the college.

LaFontaine voices excitement about coming to the college, and says a "fun challenge will be to get to know the Connecticut College community as quickly as I can."

He is happy to see how vested the people affiliated with the school are in its growth, and feels that their high expectations and visions challenge him to put the fundraising resources of the college in a place that gives sufficient funds for this growth. An additional challenge that he looks forward to is "to understand alumni perspectives on how they want to be engaged, and to be able to use new technology resources to keep people connected."

"If there is a fundamental goal for me it will be building relationships with our alumni over the long

term, keeping folks informed, engaged, and committed to the College."

He would like to see this same commitment to longterm relationships internally as well as externally at the college, as "the advancement office is one that establishes relationships with all of the internal resources that we have."

LaFontaine left Yale University, where he has served as director for Yale College Programs since 1998 and where he joined the development staff as associate director for major gifts in 1993, on April 19.

At Yale, LaFontaine was responsible for setting the strategic direction for and managing the Yale College annual fund program as well as the programs for annual giving, reunion giving, capital giving up to \$100,000 and undergraduate programs. As part of the senior management team in Yale's development office, he helped develop overall fundraising policies, priorities, programs, and administration of the department. Annual fund giving increased 26 percent and leadership annual giving rose more than 50 percent during his tenure.

LaFontaine holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Rollins College and a law degree from Creighton University School of Law in Omaha, Nebraska. From 1989 to 1993, he practiced law, including two years as a litigation associate with the law firm of Sherrits Smith & Gardner in Omaha.

The incoming VP has a wife, Darlene, and three children: Sam, 4; Lucy, 2; and Danny, 15 months. The family has been exploring the New London area and is currently looking for a house. They are eager to become involved with the Connecticut College campus and community.

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I-nite Showcases International Cultures

By DEBORAH BLOCK

LAYOUT EDITOR

Through dancing, fashion and food, the third annual I-nite provided a glimpse into the cultures international students bring with them to Conn.

ATLAS, Conn.'s International club, started planning I-nite in January. Putting together the event involved time and preparation. Some students rehearsed until 3 am the night before the show.

"It took long hours of hard work-especially by the exec board, and it was very stressful," president of ATLAS Kuswantie Parasram said.

The result of all of that work is that this year's I-nite was the biggest ever. On April 12, students packed the 1962 room, which was decorated with flags on the wall to represent some of the nationalities featured. The event was sold out, including standing room. The audience included students, parents, faculty members, and New London residents.

"A lot of people showed up without reservations and there were not enough seats for all of them," said freshman fashion show model Trang Nguyen.

I-nite is part of both Intercultural Awareness Month and Eclipse Weekend. While there have been many other events going on throughout April, I-nite is the keystone event.

"The basic role of I-nite is to promote cultural awareness on campus. About ten percent of the student body is international and it's nice to have cultural food and outfits to show our cultural diversity," Parasram said.

"It's to get more people to know how the international students are doing and to show the unity of Conn," added Nguyen.

The evening started with a performance of the cha-cha, one of several fashion shows, an exhibition by the Dance Club, and an Indian dance called Bole Chudiyar. During the performances, members of the audience snacked on popcorn and salad. The fashion shows featured costumes native to such countries as India, Thailand, and Malaysia. All six major continents were represented.

Dinner was a buffet of entrees from several local ethnic restaurants, such as Illiano's and Bombay Grill and Spice, as well as Thai food made by Aim Sinpeng '05.

Following dinner, the entertainment continued with



Ginger Jacobson '04 in a Caribbean dance as part of I-nite (Sultan).

more student performances, as well as a karate and weapon demonstration by instructor Shawn Floyd and several of his students from the Yamashita Mystic Dojo. There was also a professional Egyptian belly dance by Ann "Roxann" Smith.

Reactions to the performances varied.

"I never thought I could be bored by half naked woman dancing," explained Dejan Duzevik '04.

Most people, however, enjoyed the entertainment.

"I think the performers were really quirky and were having fun," Vetri Nathan '03 said.

"It was spectacular-especially the hot boys in costume," added Alice Kelly '04.

Students Suspended, Campus Reacts

continued from page 1

guys under control."

This disappointment was made manifest following the game when Wesleyan contacted Connecticut College regarding the matter.

"A formal complaint was filed by the Athletic Director and several coaches at Wesleyan to President Fainstein, followed by complaints from Conn. students, coaches, and community members," commented Conn. Dean of Student Life Catherine WoodBrooks. "A campus safety report was also filed."

In addition to the inter-college complaint, Wesleyan also filed a complaint with NESAC. Unfortunately Wesleyan's Athletic Director could not be reached to comment on any of these filings.

Upon reviewing the cases, Student Life decided that this was not a matter to be decided through the J-Board process. The charges being brought against the students include disorderly conduct, underage and public drinking, and verbally abusive and defiant behavior. The case is not being considered sexual harassment.

The punishments meted out by the administration ranged from probation to suspension. Of particular interest to the student body has been three students who received suspensions effective immediately. They are not allowed to return to campus until the fall of 2003. The campus reaction to the incident has largely focused on these punishments and the process that determined those sentences.

The men involved in the case met twice with the Office of Student Life. During the first meeting, the students explained their involvement in the incident and turned in a written statement describing the situation. The students were told that Student Life would be in touch. The following week, the students were called in for a second round of meetings. During these meetings, the students were lectured about the dangers of alcohol consumption and informed of their sentences. Depending on how far away they lived, students were given between 24 and 48 hours to leave campus. From the students' perspective, they were given no opportunity to defend themselves from the charges or dis-

cuss the sequence of events of that day in any further detail.

Dean WoodBrooks disagrees with this version of events, explaining, "Every student is given the chance to defend the themselves when accused of a wrongdoing...the process is that a Dean meets with the student in question and gives them an opportunity to prepare a written statement that can include a defense, an admission of guilt, reasons why other people should be questioned...a second meeting takes place between student and Dean(s) in which the statement is reviewed, questions are asked by the Dean(s), and the student is given the opportunity to add to their statement...after this, the statement is reviewed once before by the Deans before any decision is rendered...it is important we oversee this process as expediently as possible... Expediency and efficiency are of the utmost importance. I have never experienced a case where the Judiciary Board did not agree that such a case belonged at the level of the J-Board."

Both WoodBrooks and Hoffmann rebuffed student accusations that the thoroughness of the investigation was sacrificed in the name of expediency.

"I vehemently disagree," said WoodBrooks. "In my case where I'm looking at any kind of adjudication, I believe in absolute thoroughness." WoodBrooks also stressed that each student involved in the case was being evaluated individually, and that it was not unusual for her to work 12 hour days and over the weekend when handling such a case. "I really want to get to the bottom of this."

The J-Board submitted a letter to the deans asking to hear the case after the students had been informed of their punishments, but this request was denied.

Karen Geisenheimer '03, similarly concerned, wrote a petition demanding that the men be allowed a J-Board hearing. Geisenheimer's concern is that the incident was not thoroughly investigated and that the students were not allowed a fair hearing.

"The petition is not to absolve or reinstate the students but to get them the fair J-Board hearing they deserve," said Geisenheimer, who collected more than 600 signatures

with the help of volunteers. "If J-Board says three semesters [of suspension] is appropriate, I'm done; there's nothing more I can do."

The administration defends their right to handle cases of a certain level of sensitivity or complexity.

"If there is a highly sensitive case, for various reasons, including people outside the community, or if there is reason to believe that a member of the community is at risk in any way, then the deans exercise their right and obligation to investigate and hear the case," said WoodBrooks.

Frances Hoffmann, Dean of the College, echoed this statement. "In cases of a particularly sensitive nature, or cases that have a broad institutional nature or are complex, the deans do the investigation and adjudication."

In response to the petition, Hoffmann said, "Students have a right to express their opinions. My own feeling is that the process was fair."

"Throughout the next day," said Hoffmann of the day following the incident, "there were flurries of conferences and phone calls as we tried to untangle what had transpired."

The response of the women's lacrosse team to the incident was varied. While some players were upset by the behavior of the fans, others were unaffected. Hitchner, speaking for the team, said they were surprised by the severity of some of the sanctions. However, she did not support seeking to overturn Student Life's decision.

"I don't think someone has the right to go to J-Board just because the J-Board wants to take it out of the hands of Student Life," said Hitchner. "I feel like it is severe to be suspending these kids, but I have to trust that Student Life has been doing this for years and that they know more than we do about the students' records and the situation."

"The outside observer with a snapshot of what happened will perceive that there was very harsh punishments for very different behaviors," said WoodBrooks, "but they should know we look at individual histories, patterns of behavior, and disciplinary patterns before giving out individual sanctions."

And the Cup Goes to...

continued from page 10

This year, however, there is just too much experience and talent on the Red Wings. There is a Hall of Famer wherever you look, and by this time in the season, they will have enough momentum and all the other essential intangibles to beat the reigning champions. Back in October, they were my pick to reach the finals, and I am sticking to my prediction: Wings reach the finals in seven.

As far as the Eastern Conference is concerned, the decision can be reduced to three teams: the New Jersey Devils, the Philadelphia Flyers, and the Boston Bruins. These are the top three teams in the conference, regardless of how they are seeded. The Devils have the best D in this half of the league, which is anchored by Captain Scott Stevens, who is among the top defensemen in the game, and Martin Brodeur, who, along with Roy and Hasek, is tops in goaltending. The Bruins feature one of the best offenses in the league, being the only team with multiple 40-goal scores in Glen Murray and Bill Guerin, as well as many other talented offensive weapons. The Flyers, however, are the most complete team of the three. Because of the way the playoffs are run, all three will make it out of the first round, but only two can make it to

the third. Sorry, Jersey, but you get left out of the mix when Boston sends you home in six.

The Flyers were the team I had picked to go all the way at the start of the season. They have a good, all-around team that is strong on both sides of the puck. They have large, aggressive forwards who aren't afraid to get into the corners, as well as a consistent, solid defensive corps. Though they have been in a slump lately, their goaltending should get things turned around just in time to take care of the Ottawa Senators. If they do get things turned around in time, they will also get past the New York Islanders, in what will be a harder but more evenly matched series.

If the Bruins are going anywhere this postseason (and yes, they are going to), it is not going to be an easy road. They will first be facing Jose Theodore of the Montreal Canadiens, MVP candidate and the best goalie of the 2002 season. After Theodore, however, the Habs do not have much else to offer. Thus, the true challenge will be in the second round when the Bruins will face the New Jersey Devils. The Bruins will win this series, assuming that everyone on the bench is at his best, most importantly goaltender Byron Dafoe. Breaking up the Devils' defense is no easy task, and if their

offense gets going, Dafoe will have his work cut out for him.

The Bruins will make it to the Stanley Cup over the Flyers for one reason, and it is one that I have mentioned many times above: goaltending. Philadelphia has two capable goaltenders in Roman Cechmanek and Brian Boucher; however, these two have been known to go into a funk come playoff time. They will let down, and the Flyers will go down. Bruins make it to the finals after another seven-game series.

As far as the Stanley Cup Finals is concerned, the game will be a match-up between a virtual superpower and a team that few people expected to be any good. The Detroit Red Wings have all the makings of a championship team: great coaching, superior goaltending, and more All-Stars than you can count on one hand. The one downside to the Wings is the team's age, and this will be the cause of its demise. With its core group of players all between 33-40 years old, the wear of the long season will finally take its toll as the finals go on. As a result, the hometown heroes will win once again, as their young legs will hold up longer than their opponents' will. The Boston Bruins will be the 2002 Stanley Cup Champions after a thrilling seven-game upset of the Detroit Red Wings.

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Crew Teams Improve with Each Stroke

continued from page 10

about 6:46 consistently in 2,000-meter races this season. The women hope to beat the Tufts and Holy Cross crews, which have both been rowing a few seconds slower than the Camels. The men hope to show continued improvement but are aware that it will not be easy. Ithaca is one of the top men's crews this season, and Holy Cross has been having a remarkable season as well. As Powell stated, "It's going to be a battle, but it will be a good test for us."

"They are good teams, but we are looking forward to being competitive with them," added Stransky. Both teams are striving to be victorious and to continue to remain competitive and successful as they approach the midpoint of the spring season.

SGA Elections Delayed Due to Technical Problems

continued from page 1

think that the "whole part of the program that handled write-in candidates was a little strange."

"I didn't really understand how it was supposed to come on because the faculty doesn't have a write in candidate," he said. The other "shortcoming" in the application was that YAT and senior speaker did not have write-in fields at all. "That is something Mike [Frischia] was not made aware of," Khosa conceded, but was quick to add, "however, that did not harm anybody."

It is unclear whether more thorough testing of the e-voting application could have eliminated the possibility of the mess that followed.

"One of the problems that we've had is that this application is developed minimally tested and then launched for the entire campus use," said Frischia. "Every other application that I've written has gone through extensive testing before it was launched."

"Testing is not the issue," Khosa disagreed. "The system is pretty fool-proof." When made aware of Frischia's comments regarding lack of thorough testing, he said, "We did internal testing within the SGA a few times... there was nothing wrong in internal testing."

"I think we had a participation of about thirty people," countered Frischia. "That's not really extensive testing." Referring to the procedure that was followed when the faculty voting program was developed, he said, "The faculty tested it twice. The difference was [that] when I first wrote it, there was me and a couple of people testing it and it worked fine. But when we launched it to the faculty, then you notice things."

But Khosa had a difference of opinion. "There is no

reason to believe that extensive testing would have not done this," he insisted. "There is no reason to believe that if we did not do extensive testing that this error can occur."

However, Frischia feels otherwise. "I think if we had a test election and included all 1600 students, it would've been found out right away."

"Definitely, always increasing the size reduces the chances but at the same time, increasing the size of testing base from 30 to 50 might be much better than increasing it from 30 to 6000," argued Khosa. "I would still say that I would like if there was more testing [as] there are some problems that come up that wouldn't have come up otherwise... but I do not know extensive testing would have prevented what happened." He further said that "For about two three weeks I've had the system in my hand and I've been setting it up in different ways [by] putting in ten candidates or writing in hundred people seeing if that still tallies perfectly." However, he did acknowledge that "I'm not an expert on the best way to test this particular program."

Addressing the issue of lack of extensive testing, Frischia said, "That was something that had come up, but I think the fear to run a test election on 1600 students was that after that election ended, nobody would be interested in voting for the real one."

"No that was not a concern why I did not do it... the reason I did that was because it was not needed," said Khosa. However he later said, "If we had encouraged 1600 people to vote, it would have discouraged people to vote the second time."

Election Results

President

Kurt Brown

Vice President

Malik Sarmad Asif

Chair of Academic Affairs

Hasan Mamun

Chair of Residential Affairs

Laurie Goglia

Chair of Multicultural Affairs

Elli Nagai-Rothe

Director, Public Relations

Aim Sinpeng

Chair, SAC

Rick Gropper

Chair, J-Board

Jonathan Franks

YAT

Alex Band

Preparing for Own Woodstock: Floralia 2002

continued from page 1

our trip down memory lane, The Arsonists, a hip hop band from Brooklyn, is scheduled to bring their special blend of hip hop and funk to Floralia's mainstage. Formed in 1993, The Arsonists began their career with a membership of 13, but now perform throughout the country as a trio. The band's sophomore album, *Date of Birth*, is slated for release later this spring. As the band prepares for the release of their second album, they have been touring relentlessly, gaining a great following. The Arsonists are enjoying critical success as well. According to the New York Times, "Even when just mightily shooting the breeze, these rappers offer more imaginative twists than many chart-toppers manage in a career."

From hip hop to a funk jazz fusion, headliners Addison Groove Project take the stage following the Arsonists' set. Hailing from Massachusetts, the sextet has recently become one of the more prominent, prevailing jam bands in the genre. With blaring horns, pumping bass lines, a talented keyboardist, a guitarist and a charismatic vocalist, Addison Groove Project blends rock, jazz, funk and hip hop into an exhilarating combination. They just released their third album, "allophone," earlier this month and have toured extensively to support it. With their name more recognizable than last year's headliners, Two Skinny J's, Addison Groove Project's six talented musicians will provide an electrifying performance to close the evening....at least the musical portion of the evening. As always, the MOBROC stage will provide a diverse group of student bands throughout the day as well.

Twenty-Seventh Annual Eclipse Weekend a Success

continued from page 1

Many alumni remember the weekend fondly and are pleased to see the way it has grown over the past decade.

Jim Hobart '90, said, "In a world growing smaller by the minute and where understanding and interacting with other cultures is of increasing importance, I am glad to see Conn making an effort both to welcome minority students and to encourage all of its students to live in and thrive in a diverse community."

Hobart, along with many other alumni, is thrilled at the college's current efforts to diversify our community.

In addition to members of the alumni pool, the event also draws the attention of potential Conn students. Eclipse Weekend has become one of the busiest weekends for prospective minority students to visit and one of

the most positive.

"Coming from a predominantly African American school, one of my biggest concerns about college is the way that I will be received and how I will cope with being a minority at school for the first time," commented prospective student Matt Koh. "Seeing the efforts made by a school like Connecticut College to make not only minority students, but all students feel welcome and at home ended many of my worries."

At least forty high-school students attended this year's Eclipse Weekend, nearly quadrupling last year's turnout.

One of the things that separates Conn from many other schools is the community that students, faculty, and alumni all enjoy. Events like Eclipse Weekend not only celebrate this community, but also help the college community to grow closer.



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SPORTS

And the Cup Goes to...

If you do actually read my column, then you know that I spent my 836 words last time explaining to my faithful readers why the beginning of Spring was the most boring time of year. This week, however, I come to you on a different note. While the end of March/beginning of April in the world of sports can be quite dull, the second half of the fourth month is the exact opposite. Yes, ladies and gents, not only does Tax Day come in the second half of April, but some of the best puck of the year is about to begin. That's right – it's time for the NHL play-offs, and I am now going to grant you the privilege of getting into this master-mind's head with my perspective on the quest for Stanley's Cup, hockey's Holy Grail.



MATT PRESTON
Personal Perspective

The Western Conference will be a two-team race, much like it usually is. Since 1996, the same three teams have made it to the Stanley Cup Finals coming out of the West: the Colorado Avalanche, the Detroit Red Wings, and the Dallas Stars. Dallas, however, will not be the subject of this year's post-season festivities, meaning that Detroit and Colorado will have to pick up the slack. They will do so nicely, as both will make it to the Conference finals.

Colorado will make it past the first round by first beating the Los Angeles Kings in a quick-four game sweep, thanks to the return of Peter Forsberg, who is among several of the best players in the world, and adds the depth of a third quality center. Then, the Avs will ride past the Sharks in the second round because of goaltending: Evgeni Nabokov vs. "Saint" Patrick Roy. (Does an argument really need to be made in favor of Roy?)

Detroit, being the best team in the league, even though it is currently in a slump with just one win in its last ten tries, will also make it to the conference finals. The Wings are always able to turn things up a notch come post season. With a star-studded lineup, it doesn't even matter if they have not won in seven games and are facing the hottest team in the NHL in the first round – they will turn it on once the puck drops and take out the Canucks in five. An offense that boasts four 500-goal scorers (Brett Hull, Luc Robitaille, Steve Yzerman, and Brendan Shanahan) and a defense that is anchored by the second-best goalie in the world, Dominik Hasek, will be too much for any team to handle, though the Wings' age (the average team age is 31) may play a factor as the playoffs wear on.

A bitter rivalry will be renewed in the Western Conference Final. It seems like these two teams manage to meet in the playoffs every year, each of their series exemplifying what the NHL playoffs are all about.

continued on page 8

Women's Lax Suffers at Hand of the Ephs

NORA MIRICK
STAFF WRITER

The date was Tuesday, April 16th, the time was 4 p.m., and Connecticut College was fully prepared to face Williams College out on Harkness green. The scene could not have been better; it was a beautiful day, the sun was shining, a nice crisp breeze blew across the field, Connecticut was experiencing some of the best weather it has had all year, and the fans were out in full force to support their Lady Camels.

The Connecticut College Women's Lacrosse games have recently been part of a controversy here on campus due to the inappropriate behavior of a few fans at the team's last home contest. All present hoped this behavior would not occur again.

This day, fans were treated to a little extra time in the sun, since the game got off to a delayed start, as the Williams team arrived 45 minutes late. Despite this, the Lady Camels scored the first goal of the game, jumping into the lead. This early lead didn't seem to intimidate Williams, however, as it answered



Third leading scorer Emily Stieff '04 helps to get Conn back on a roll against Mount Holyoke after a six-game losing streak (Tselikis).

this challenge quickly with a goal of its own.

The first half continued much in this way until Conn gave in to six unanswered goals, going into half

time down with a score of 3-9. The energy that the Lady Camels had in the beginning of the game came back at the beginning of the second half, yet they still remained score-

less for the remainder of the second half. The game ended in a disappointing 3-20 loss.

At what point does a streak turn into a habit, or an occasional loss

turn into common practice? After opening the season by winning their first two games, the Lady Camels lost their next six straight. After Tuesday's loss, the Camels fell to 1-7 in NESCAC competition, 3-7 overall. "Tuesday's game was like a lot of our losses have been; we always start out scoring really well," said senior captain Anna Hitchner.

Perhaps that's where the problem lies for the young team. It has the talent to get things going in the beginning, but has not yet learned how to continue their high level of play to the end of the game. This will only come with time, and there is still much to be played in the season.

What lies next for these ladies? They look for yet another tally in the win column as they face Wellesley College on April 18th. Followed by three more games, against Colby on April 20th, Babson on April 23rd, and finally against Tufts on the 27th to close out the season. Starting with the Colby game, the rest are home, so all fans are welcome to support these ladies as they strive to do their best, going into every game prepared to compete.

Men's Tennis Enjoys Competitive Season Conn Crew Improves with Every Stroke

BY DAVID BYRD
STAFF WRITER

Although its overall record may not show it, the Connecticut College Men's Tennis Team is having a good year. It is playing in the toughest Division III league in the nation and has managed to stay competitive with all the other schools. "The NESCAC has five of the top ten Division III teams in the nation, so it's a pretty tough conference," says Head Coach Paul Huch.

Overall, the Camels are 4-7, including a victory over Division I Holy Cross and Division III rival, Hamilton College. They have had a lot of close NESCAC losses. On Tuesday, the Camels fell one win short against Wesleyan in a 3-4 loss. Conn has also lost 2-5 to both Trinity and Colby.

The Wesleyan match was impressive for some of the players. Senior Captain Cam Clark, playing his last home match, pulled out a three set victory. "He had a huge win at his last home match," said Huch. "It was his first NESCAC win of the year, and it was his best match."

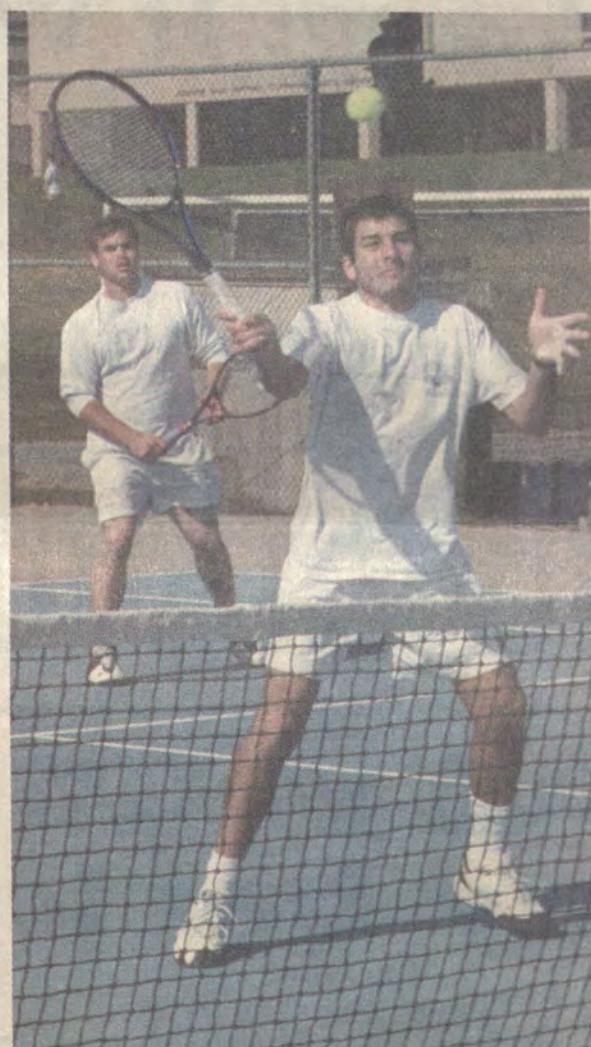
Junior Captain Dan Greenblatt and junior Mike Marvel also pulled out victories against the Cardinals. The Camels won all their matches in three sets.

"We haven't had the most consistent lineup this season due to injuries and roster changes," says Huch. This has given some of the players a chance to move up and prove their skills. Greenblatt points to Marvel as an example of a player who has stepped up toward the end of the year. Marvel was rotating in and out of the lineups, but after some roster changes has moved up to take over the number four spot in the singles lineup. "He has really improved physically and mentally over the course of the season," says Huch. Marvel has won matches against Hamilton and Wesleyan while playing at the number four spot.

Rounding out the top six singles players are freshman Nick Raffel at number five and sophomore Alex Sandman, who has jumped from the number nine spot earlier in the year to the number six. The top four players are junior Nick Sheiikh, who is the new number one player for the team this year, Greenblatt, Clark, and Marvel. Sheiikh has been impressive this year in playing the top-ranked players in the nation, including a big win over Brandeis' top player.

The Camels are confident that they can do some damage as their season comes to a close. According to Greenblatt, "The top teams in the past (Williams, Trinity, Amherst, and Bowdoin) are still there, but there are other teams; Tufts and Middlebury that have really improved. It's pretty even all the way through except for Williams. We could surprise people in the tournament."

To do this, the Camels will need to improve their



The play of the doubles teams, including Dan Greenblatt '03 (background), and Nick Sheiikh '03 (foreground), is crucial for the Camels down the stretch (Day).

doubles and play consistently as a team. There is not a lot of doubles experience on the team as most players are used to playing singles, but "our guys have definitely improved," says Greenblatt. "We felt like we could beat Wesleyan and Colby this year, but it's the end of the year that really matters."

Huch points to the captains as excellent leaders for the team. He calls Greenblatt "a bulldog on the court and says, "Every match he brings 100%."

The coach also admits that he "was close to tears" on Tuesday when Clark pulled through to beat Wesleyan.

The Camels will close out the 2002 schedule by traveling to Amherst on Wednesday in what should be a tough but competitive match. On Monday, the Camels will drive down the road to the Coast Guard Academy in their final regular season match before they head to Amherst next weekend for the NESCAC Championship.

BY BONNIE PROKESCH
STAFF WRITER

This Spring, both the Connecticut College men and women rowers started the season strong and have never turned back. The women have remained consistent, finishing first in two out of three races, while the men are seeing the results of hard training, improving consistently throughout the season.

The women opened their season with a first place finish in a 2,000-meter race against Mount Holyoke College and UMass Lowell, at UMass Lowell. The Camels completed the distance in 6:46.89, a full four seconds ahead of the second-place Mount Holyoke boat. At the same locale, the men finished in a time of 6:01.32 for the 2,000-meters, placing them third out of four boats, beating out UMass Lowell, but finishing behind the University of New Hampshire and the University of Rhode Island.

The second race of the season proved to be a test of the improvement of both crews, for they raced the same teams on the same water as in the season openers. The women were triumphant once again, finishing first against the same teams they had beaten the week before. The men, showing improvement, rowed a faster time, but again finished third ahead of UMass Lowell.

After another week of intense practicing, the two crews went to Worcester, Massachusetts to race against Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Williams College. The race proved difficult for both teams. While the women were unable to maintain their speed against the fierce competition, the men rowed strongly, exhibiting immense improvement from the

weekend before, and finished second behind Williams. The women suffered their first defeat of the year, finishing fourth out of the total four boats.

Commenting on the men's race, captain Phil Stransky '02 commented, "It was a building race, and although we didn't win, we are where we want to be in the season."

Ethan Powell '04 put the season into perspective when he explained, "Our boat is already as fast as it was at the end of the season last year, and we still have a lot of races left in the season."

Although the race in Worcester had great significance to the men's crew, it was their race against Coast Guard last Sunday that truly allowed them to reap the benefits of hard work and rigorous training. In prior years, Coast Guard's crew typically beat Conn's men by about twenty seconds. This year, the Camels finished within 1.1 seconds of the Coast Guard boat.

"I think we scared them," remarked Powell regarding the near victory against the cadets. The race gained the men's team much respect from a crew with whom they share the water every day.

When asked about the vast improvement of the crew, Stransky stated, "We realized, after coming in last last year, that we have to train harder to do better. So, we are training harder and doing better. It's almost as simple as that."

Both the men's and women's crews will travel to Worcester once again this weekend to race against Ithaca College, Holy Cross, and Tufts University. The races should prove extremely competitive for both teams. The women must face an Ithaca crew comparable to their own boat, as both teams have rowed

continued on page 8

Camel Scoreboard

Men's Lacrosse

4/13, vs. Skidmore, 7-6
4/16, at Williams, 5-9
4/20, at Colby, 1:00 p.m.
4/25, vs. Amherst, 4:30 p.m.

Women's Lacrosse

4/11, at Mount Holyoke, 16-4
4/16, vs. Williams, 3-20
4/18, at Wellesley, 4:300 p.m.
4/20, vs. Colby, 1:00 p.m.

Men's and Women's Rowing

4/20, at Holy Cross with Tufts and Ithaca
4/27, vs. Trinity and Wesleyan in Worcester, Ma.
5/4, New England Championship

Sailing

4/20-4/21, Women's New England Championship,
9:30 a.m.

Men's Tennis

4/16, vs. Hamilton,
4/17, at Middlebury,

4/22, at Coast Guard, 3:00 p.m.
4/26-4/28, NESCAC Championship

Men's Outdoor Track

4/13, Wesleyan Invitational, 3rd of 3
4/20, Silfen Invitational
4/27, NESCAC Championship at Bates

Women's Indoor Track

4/13, Wesleyan Invitational, 1st of 3
4/20, Silfen Invitational
4/27, NESCAC Championship at Bates